

Remarks

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed October 28, 2003. This amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination, and a petition for a one month extension of time. The examiner's further consideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments and comments herein.

With respect to the indefiniteness rejection in paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 25, 29, 31, 38 and 47 no longer use the phrase "with respect to the latter". The "latter" of the phrase referred to the core strip previously mentioned in the claim. To avoid any confusion, and to address the indefiniteness rejection, the phrase "core strip" has replaced the word "latter", thereby clarifying the element referenced.

In paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Office Action, the examiner rejected claims 31 and 38 as being indefinite, citing lack of antecedent basis for the limitation "the one plane". To address this rejection, claims 31 and 38 have been amended to include an antecedent basis for the "one plane".

The examiner rejected claims 40-46 as improperly referring to the independent claim 38. Claim 38 refers to a system, but claims 40-46 refer to an apparatus. Claim 39, which also depends from claim 38, correctly referred to the system of claim 38. Therefore, the applicant has amended claims 40-46 to refer to the system of claim 38.

The examiner rejects claims 25, 28-31 and 34-37 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,132,156 to Trassare, Jr. *et al.* The examiner also rejects claims 26, 27, 32, 33, and 38-48 as being obvious in view of Trassare. The result of these rejections is all claims stand rejected. The applicants believe the arguments filed on August 13, 2003 fully address these rejections. However, due to wording used in the amendments of that response, it appears the examiner did not fully understand the distinction being made in the amended claims. Specifically, the examiner found the word "latter" to be indefinite, and apparently did not understand the word "transverse" to mean perpendicular.

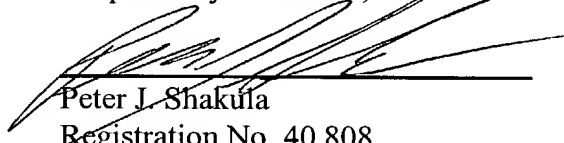
As previously discussed, the indefiniteness raised by the word "latter" has been corrected. Additionally, the applicants have amended claims 25, 31, 38, and 47 to claim the longitudinal direction of the flutes of the core extending perpendicularly to the core strip. This positioning

relationship between the flutes and the core strip is not found, nor suggested in Trassare. As discussed in the Remarks section of the August 13, 2003 Response, the flutes of Trassare are parallel to the plane of the composite and hence the core strips, not perpendicular to the core strips as presently claimed. Thus, Trassare does not anticipate the invention as presently claimed. Further, such positioning would not be obvious in view of the folding disclosed in Trassare, nor would the folding in Trassare result in the claimed perpendicular flute.

In view of the above amendments, and the argument presented, and previously presented in the August 13, 2003 Response, favorable consideration of the claims is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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